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My Ref:

9 June, 2004

2078/PCT

The European Patent Office D-80298 Munchen Germany

BY FAX INITIALLY 00 49 89 2399 4465

Dear Sirs,

Re:

International Patent Application No. PCT/GB03/03411

Cavity Protection Systems Ltd

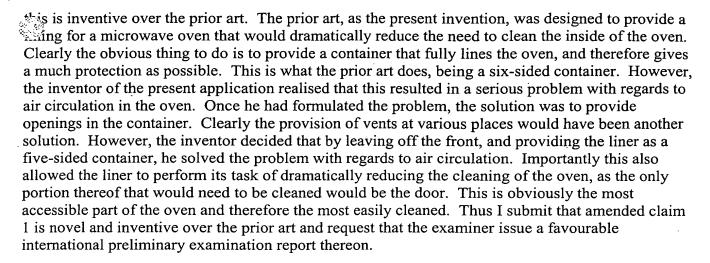
I write in response to the Written Opinion dated 7th April 2004.

Please find enclosed amended claims and specification to replace those currently on file.

The examiner has objected to claim 1 of the application on the grounds that all features thereof are taught by US 4 778 968 Torres. While I accept this to be the case, there are significant differences between the citation and the present invention.

The citation teaches a container for lining a microwave oven and comprises a top, a bottom, a back, two side walls, and significantly a front. The front is provided as a door to allow access to the inside of the container. The top is provided with an array of apertures over its entire surface. This container has a number of disadvantages. Firstly, by providing a six-sided container, air flow within the microwave oven and particularly within the container is severely restricted. Generally in a microwave oven, air is drawn in through the top or back of the oven and is blown along the top towards the front. When it hits the front door, it rebounds into the centre of the oven and onto the contents thereof. With the container of the citation, this cannot happen due to the door in the container. This can lead to uneven temperatures in the oven and can even lead to pressure differentials between the inside of the container and the outside, which is clearly a potential hazard. In addition, the provision of apertures in the top of the container will allow a certain amount of air circulation, but it also allows food splatters to escape the container and foul the top of the microwave oven.

Claim 1 has therefore been amended to incorporate the feature of original claim 2, namely that the roof is shorter at the front the floor to allow air steam to circulate for steam withdrawal from the oven. I submit that this is novel over the citation discussed above. Furthermore, I submit that



Yours faithfully

NIGEL BROOKS